

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

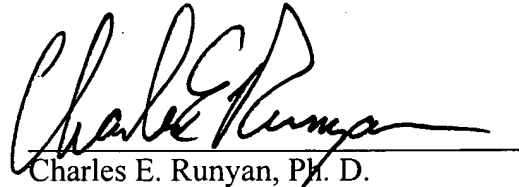
- Claims 1-4 are pending.
- Claims 1-4 are rejected.

Claim 1 has been amended for the purpose of specifying the characteristic feature of the present invention, namely, the first and second abutting members are moved in a predetermined position in accordance with an operation mode such as, for example, the inward threefold process or the Z-fold process, thereby reducing the apparatus volume (downsizing the apparatus) and the manufacturing cost of the apparatus and simplifying a sheet convey path with the result that a sheet convey failure can be prevented.

On the contrary, neither of the cited references, U. S. Patent No. 5,769,404 and U. S. Patent No. 240, 390, discloses moving first and second abutting members in a predetermined position to conduct a threefold process or a Z-fold process so as each process is executable in the same sheet convey path.

Since all claims are in a condition for allowance, please issue a Notice of Allowability so stating. If I can be of any help, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles E. Runyan, Ph. D.
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 43,066

Date: January 3, 2005

Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
One Maritime Plaza
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111
Facsimile (415) 393-9887
Telephone (415) 954-0235
crunyan@ssd.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

Date: 01/03/05 By: Patricia Jumble
Name of person signing certification